CLAIMS

1. A method for reducing formation or progression of neoplasms associated with immunosuppressive therapy in a mammal, the method comprising treating the mammal with an effective amount of a TGF-β antagonist.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of TGF-β1.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of TGF-β2.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of TGF-β3.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of more than one isoform of TGF-β.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist comprises a protein or polypeptide.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist comprises an antibody directed against TGF-β.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist comprises a TGF-β receptor or fragment thereof.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of a TGF-β receptor.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the TGF-β receptor is TGF-β receptor type 1.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the TGF-β receptor is TGF-β receptor type 2.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the TGF-β receptor is TGF-β receptor type 3.

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the TGF-β antagonist is an antibody or an antibody fragment specific for the TGF-β receptor.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the immunosuppressive therapy comprises treatment with cyclosporine.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the immunosuppressive therapy comprises treatment with FK506.

17. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist is administered prior to immunosuppressive therapy.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein TGF-β antagonist is administered during immunosuppressive therapy.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist is administered after immunosuppressive therapy.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist administration overlaps the period of immunosuppressive therapy.

21. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a TGF-β antagonist and an immunosuppressive agent.

22. The composition according to claim 21 wherein TGF-β antagonist is an anti-TGF-β antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

23. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of TGF-β1.

24. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of TGF-β2.

25. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of TGF-β3.

26. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist binds a TGF-β receptor

27. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist inhibits the activity of more than one isoform of TGF-β.

28. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist is a soluble TGF-β receptor.

29. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the TGF-β antagonist is a protein selected from the group consisting of decorin, fetuin, and fibromodulin.

30. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the immunosuppressive agent is cyclosporine.

31. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the immunosuppressive agent is FK506.

32. A method of identifying compounds capable of inhibiting the formation or proliferation of tumors in a mammal undergoing immunosuppressive therapy, the method comprising:

(i) providing a test animal with a tumor cell;

(ii) treating the test animal with an immunosuppressive agent in an immunosuppressive regimen;

(iii) administering the TGF-β antagonist candidate to the test animal;

(iv) monitoring the growth of the tumor cell in the test animal; and

(v) comparing the growth of the tumor cell in the test animal with the growth of the tumor cell inoculated into a control animal.

33. The method of claim 33 wherein the growth of the tumor cell monitored in steps (iv) and (v) is anchorage-independent growth.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the immunosuppressive agent is cyclosporine.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein the immunosuppressive agent is FK506.